

# PROSPECTUS DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

## IN HIGH-IMPACT SOCIAL SCIENCE

The Tobin Project seeks applications to participate in its Prospectus Development Workshop. We invite doctoral students who are currently developing research questions and aiming to produce high-impact social science research related to the Tobin Project's [core research areas](#) to apply. This interdisciplinary question-development program aims to foster rigorous research that can, over the long term, deepen our understanding of—and ultimately help to solve—important problems facing our government, society, and economy.

“The most important decisions a scholar makes are what problems to work on. Choosing them just by looking for gaps in the literature is often not very productive and at worst divorces the literature itself from problems that provide more important and productive lines of inquiry.”

—Nobel Laureate James Tobin, *Essays in Economics*

The Tobin Project seeks to foster innovative research that addresses major challenges facing society. Carefully developing questions is central to our model and we believe doctoral students can be a great resource for each other as they develop their research topics. Doctoral students can dramatically enhance each other's work through collaboration, constructive feedback, and helping each other to avoid narrow queries focused simply on filling gaps in a particular literature. With this belief in mind, the Tobin Project envisions the workshop aiding participants by:

- 1) Giving them constructive feedback at a crucial time in the research process,
- 2) Letting them learn from fellow doctoral students in other disciplines, and
- 3) Connecting them with similarly-situated students who can provide ongoing support.

Doctoral students from all disciplines who are developing new research questions and seek collaborative feedback are strongly encouraged to apply.

### WORKSHOP FORMAT

The prospectus workshop will take place on June 14–16, 2017, in Cambridge, MA. The Tobin Project will select and invite a small group of graduate students who are currently developing their research questions. At the workshop, participants and facilitators will discuss criteria for developing high-impact research questions; each participant will present his or her research question; and each participant (and the workshop facilitators) will offer feedback. The Tobin Project will cover the costs of travel, lodging, and meals. Each participant will also receive a small stipend.

### APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Curriculum Vitae
- Application essay (500 words max) in which you describe your potential research question and explain why it might be a good candidate for inclusion in the prospectus workshop. NB: If you are considering multiple questions, you may submit a separate essay for each question.
- A letter from your faculty advisor recommending you for participation in the prospectus workshop
- Contact information for your Director of Graduate Studies

Please e-mail your CV, essay(s), and DGS contact information as a single PDF to [research@tobinproject.org](mailto:research@tobinproject.org). In the subject line, please indicate that you are applying to the prospectus workshop. Please have your advisor send his or her letter as a PDF directly or through Interfolio to the same address.

### APPLICATION DEADLINE

February 25, 2017

More information at:  
[www.tobinproject.org](http://www.tobinproject.org)